

UPI-54

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WASHINGTON--THE CIA DECLINED TO COMMENT YESTERDAY

ON A CHARGE THAT IT TRIED TO "PAY OFF" AN ESTONIAN EMIGRANT SUING A FORMER CIA AGENT FOR SLANDER.

ACCORDING TO PAPERS FILED IN FEDERAL COURT IN BALTIMORE, EERIK HEINE OF REXFORD, CANADA, TURNED DOWN THE CIA OFFER, SAYING HE REFUSED TO "AUCTION HIS HONOR."

HEINE IS SUING A FELLOW EMIGRANT, JURI RAUS, NOW AN ENGINEER WITH THE BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS IN WASHINGTON, ON GROUNDS THAT RAUS TRIED TO DISCREDIT HIM WITH EMIGRANT GROUPS BY CALLING HIM A SOVIET INTELLIGENCE AGENT.

THE CIA HAS CONFIRMED THAT RAUS WAS A CIA OPERATIVE. THE AGENCY SAID RAUS WAS A SOURCE OF INFORMATION ON ESTONIA--NOW A PART OF THE SOVIET UNION--AND THAT HE PERFORMED "SPECIFIC ASSIGNMENTS" ALSO.

RAUS HAS CONTENDED THAT HE IS IMMUNE FROM PROSECUTION ON GROUNDS HE WAS FOLLOWING CIA ORDERS.

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